

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3951

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 03114

PASS DAN GOOTT (EUR), GERALD HOLMES (ILAB, DEPT OF LABOR),
AND ED MCHALE (IOP/DP - LABOR, USIS)

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: STEPPED-UP LABOR PROGRAM FOR SPAIN

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EMERGING SPANISH FREE TRADE
UNION MOVEMENT IN OUR VIEW DICTATES A STEPPED-UP LABOR
PROGRAM FOR SPAIN. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE EMBASSY
PROPOSES TO SPEED UP THE IDENTIFICATION OF LABOR-
ORIENTED PROJECTS WHICH IT BELIEVES MERIT EARLY
CONSIDERATION. IN SOME CASES, THE RESOURCES OF THE
MISSION WILL SUFFICE TO FOLLOW THROUGH, ONCE APPROVED.
IN OTHERS, ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND/OR OUTSIDE RESOURCES
WOULD HAVE TO BE TAPPED. THESE WILL BE SOMETHING IN
THE NATURE OF TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY REQUIRING SPEEDY
DECISIONS AS TO THEIR ACCEPTABILITY. SOME INITIAL
PROJECTS ARE PROPOSED BELOW FOR CONSIDERATION.

2. THE RECENT UGT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ITS 31ST CONGRESS HAS
BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY 25-28 IN BARCELONA IMPOSES AN
EARLY DEADLINE ON SOME CONGRESS-RELATED PROJECTS. A) IN
RESPONSE TO A UGT REQUEST FOR UP-TO-DATE FILMS OR VTRS
ON THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT, WE HAVE ALREADY REQUESTED
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THE SPANISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE AFL-CIO FILM "IF YOU
DON'T COME IN ON SUNDAY, DON'T COME IN ON MONDAY" FOR USE
AT THE CONGRESS AND LATER (MADRID 02746). B) UGT PLANS
TO FEATURE INFORMATION ON OTHER TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS
(E.G. WEST GERMAN, SCANDINAVIAN, U.S. ETC.) THROUGH LOBBY
DISPLAYS, ETC., AND HAS ASKED FOR SUITABLE MATERIAL
(INCLUDING POSTERS) FOR THAT PURPOSE. IN ADDITION TO

MAKING AVAILABLE COPIES OF THE USIS-MADRID TRANSLATED "UNIONS IN AMERICA - LABOR AND THE BICENTENNIAL" (AFL-CIO PAMPHLET NO. 153), WE HOPE TO HAVE READY OUR SECOND LABOR PAMPHLET, THE SPANISH VERSION OF "BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT" (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BULLETIN 1000) - SEE MADRID 02640 TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO AND RSC MEXICO 192 TO USIS WASHINGTON. C) THE UGT HAS ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN PERSUADING FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA PRESIDENT CESAR CHAVEZ TO ATTEND THE CONGRESS (AN INVITATION IS TO BE SENT SHORTLY). ASSUMING THAT CHAVEZ' UNION DOES NOT HAVE THE FUNDS FOR SUCH A TRIP, EMBASSY WILL PROPOSE AMERICAN SPECIALIST GRANT FOR CHAVEZ.

3. ANOTHER PROJECT IS RELATED TO THE COMING NATIONAL CONGRESS ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT ITS IMPLEMENTATION WOULD REQUIRE FILM COVERAGE OF THE UGT CONGRESS. AS RECENTLY AS MARCH 16, UGT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY MANUEL SIMON DISCUSSED WITH EMBASSY HIS UNION'S URGENT NEEDS IN LABOR EDUCATION FIELD IF THEY ARE TO COPE WITH THE MASSIVE INFLUX OF MEMBERS (THE UGT NOW CLAIMS TO BE REACHING THE TWO MILLION MARK, ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY "ONLY 20 PERCENT SO FAR ARE DUES-PAYING"). A PARTICULARLY HIGH-PRIORITY GOAL WAS TO REACH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THE THOUSANDS OF NEWLY-ELECTED UGT SHOP STEWARDS -- MOST OF WHOM HAD LITTLE IF ANY IDEA OF MODERN DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISM. RECOGNIZING THE PARTICULAR EFFECTIVENESS OF FILMS AS
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LABOR EDUCATION TOOLS, THE UGT WOULD LIKE TO PRODUCE A FILM -- IN SPAIN -- SHOWING THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THEIR UNION TO INCLUDE THE PERSPECTIVE FROM THE WORK PLACE, ORGANIZING, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, THE LOCAL, THE PROVINCIAL FEDERATION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, AND CULMINATING IN THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY: THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

4. THE UGT DOES NOT HAVE THE FINANCES TO UNDERWRITE SUCH A PROJECT (WHICH WOULD PROBABLY RUN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$50,000 FOR A 30-MINUTE FILM). HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER THIS A WORTHWHILE AND HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT AND IT OCCURS TO US THAT DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE IDEAS ON HOW IT COULD BE ASSISTED. IN THIS REGARD, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS WHICH HAVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN TRADE-UNION ORIENTED PROJECTS (E.G. FORD, ROCKEFELLER, CARNEGIE, THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND) MIGHT BE APPROACHED. ANY SUCH UNDERTAKING WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE THE SERVICES OF A QUALIFIED U.S. FILM PRODUCER (HOPEFULLY WITH LABOR EXPERIENCE) TO ASSURE THE TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE OF THE FILM. TO START BALL ROLLING, CWA PRESIDENT AND AFL-CIO VICE PRESIDENT GLENN WATTS MIGHT BE

SOUNDED OUT. (HE TOLD LABATT DURING 1976 BASQUE STV CONGRESS THAT HE WAS ON THE BOARD OF FORD FOUNDATION, AND DID NOT DISCOUNT THE IDEA OF A LABOR PROJECT IN SPAIN.) GERRY LIVINGSTONE OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE U.S. ALSO TOLD LABATT LAST FALL THAT HIS ORGANIZATION

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3952

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 03114

PASS DAN GOOT(EUR), GERALD HOLMES(ILAB, DEPT OF LABOR)
AND ED MCHALE (IOP/DP - LABOR, USIS)

WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LABOR-ORIENTED PROJECTS.

5. BOTH THE SOCIALIST UGT AND THE BASQUE STV WOULD FIND IT VERY HELPFUL AT THIS EARLY STAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO HAVE A VISIT BY AN AMERICAN TRADE UNION LABOR EDUCATION (METHODOLOGY) EXPERT (SPANISH-SPEAKING). JACK OTERO, BRAC VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WOULD LIKELY BE ONE GOOD SOURCE FOR PIN-POINTING SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL. FURTHERMORE, OTERO HAS VISITED SPAIN AND HAS A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE SPANISH LABOR SCENE. SUCH A PROJECT WOULD APPEAR TO BE IDEALLY SUITED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S DSP (DIVISION OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS) PROGRAM IN ILAB, WHICH IS FUNDED BY USIA. DSP DIRECTOR IKE GOLDEN VISITED MADRID IN OCTOBER 1977 IN CONNECTION WITH A POSSIBLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF LABOR (WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, IS STILL ON THE BACK BURNER AS ANOTHER LABOR-ORIENTED PROJECT).

6. BOTH THE UGT AND THE STV AGAIN HAVE NEED FOR SPANISH-LANGUAGE PAMPHLETS ON BASIC TRADE UNION TOPICS (COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCEDURES, GRIEVANCES, ORGANIZATION OF A LOCAL

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UNION, ETC.). HOWEVER, THIS MATERIAL MUST BE PREPARED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SPANISH LABOR SCENE, AND EXISTING MATERIAL AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. (PERHAPS PREPARED FOR LATIN AMERICAN UNIONS) WOULD ONLY BE OF MARGINAL VALUE. WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED, THEREFORE, IS A LABOR PUBLICATIONS EXPERT WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF UNION PERIODICALS, LABOR EDUCATION TRAINING PAMPHLETS, ETC. THIS MIGHT ALSO BE A PROJECT FOR DSP.

7. IN THE FIELD OF EXCHANGES AND VISITS, THE EMBASSY WILL BE PROPOSING MORE LABOR-MANAGEMENT ORIENTED IVP GRANTEES. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SACRIFICE OTHERS ON OUR HIGH-PRIORITY LIST FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WELCOME INDICATION IN STATE 069933 THAT ADDITIONAL IVP FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE FIRST SUCH PROJECT IS THE COMING VISIT OF THE 3-MAN UGT METALWORKERS TEAM JUST APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT (STATE 069933). ANOTHER PROJECT IS THE APRIL 17 VISIT OF BASQUE STV LEADER JOSE MENDIZABAL WHO WILL BE SPENDING CONSIDERABLE TIME AT THE AFL-CIO HEADQUARTERS (MADRID 02166). ON THE EMPLOYERS' SIDE, THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO OFFERED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO CEOE (SPANISH CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS) PRESIDENT CARLOS FERRER AND HIS COLLEAGUES DURING THEIR COMING ONE-WEEK VISIT TO NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON (SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE APRIL 10 - SEE MADRID 02992).

8. THE ABOVE OUTLINES BOTH PROPOSED LABOR-ORIENTED PROJECTS AND PROJECTS ALREADY APPROVED. AS FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES COME TO OUR ATTENTION, THEY WILL BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY. THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY COMMENTS WILL BE APPRECIATED. STABLER

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